certain restrictions on export of basic materials in such cases; and

(f) if so, what is the policy in this regard and what are the names of such basic materials which have been banned or restricted for export?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU): (a) Yes Sir. The Export Policy has been framed in such a way that most of the items including basic raw materials are freely exportable. A limited number of items are subject to export control with a view to avoid internal shortage, conserve national resources, and to protect environment.

(b) Yes Sir. The Ministry of Commerce takes review from time to time to encourage the export of end products. For example, the export of hides and skins will no longer be allowed for export because the country has developed a potential for exporting finished leather and other end products.

(c) and (d) An examination of this aspect is continuously made but no exhaustive list is available. Most of the basic raw materials such as seeds, vegetable oil, mineral ores and concentrates, metals and their components, chemicals raw hides and skins, paper grade pulp including bamboo pulp, wool waste, metals, silver salts, silver chemicals and components, metallurgical residues, pulses of all types etc., are not allowed for export.

(e) The scheme of restrictions on export of basic raw materials is available in the Export Policy. Certain basic materials are exported on the merits of each case, some are subject to canalisation, some are not allowed for export at all, some are under ceiling and some are allowed under OGL subject to certain conditions.

(f) The names and the categories of such basic materials which are not allowed or restricted for export are mentioned in the three schedules and six appendices to the Export Policy, copy of which is available in the Rajya Sabha Library.

Violation of FERA Provisions by Industrial Houses

2047. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during the period 1984-89, several industrial houses violated the FERA provisions;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether there was any violation of the FERA provisions by Ambani group of companies (Reliance etc.) during these years;

(d) if so, whether any action was taken by Government against these companies for the violations;

(e) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(f) if not, what were the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) to (f) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Contract Labour for Scavenging/sweeping work in Nationalised Banks in Bombay

2048. SHRI VISHWASRAO RAMRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that scavenging/sweeping work in nationalised banks in Bombay is entrusted to labourers on contract basis, (daily wages);

(b) whether it is also a fact that these labourers are not given the benefit of provident fund, gratuity earned leave etc;

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(d) what is the number of such contract labourers in the Bank of Baroda?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) to (d) Nationalised Banks generally engage full time/part time sweepers/ scavangers for their branches/offices in Bombay. A few banks have entrusted the work, generally in respect of the high rise buildings, to specialised agencies. A few others including Bank of Baroda, employ scavengers on lump sum payment basis in addition to sweepers. Such staff if working for more than 6 hours a week, are entitled to the benefits of Provident Fund, gratuity, earned leave etc. in terms of the bipartite settlements.

Policy on import of Gold by Jewellers

2049. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per the existing policy only some jewellers are eligible to import gold against their export commitments;

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the nagative, what are the details of other categories of gold importers;

(c) whether it is also a fact that a big difference exists in the prices of gold in the international market and in the domestic market; and

(d) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Gold is allowed to be imported by HHEC or other nominated public sector agency against exports of gold jewellery and articles.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Average price of gold, per 10 grammes in Bombay & London markets were as under:

Year	Bombay Market Price (in Rs.)	London Market Price (in Rs.)
1988 . . .	3202	1947
1989 . . .	3186	1989
Jan., 1990 . .	3383	2236

Gold Reserve with R.B.I.

2050. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the gold reserve with Reserve Bank of India has increased during the last five years;

(b) if so, what was the gold stock with R.B.I. at the end of each financial year during the above period and its value at international rates during that period;

(c) what is the quantity of gold seized during the above period, yearwise;

(d) whether Government contemplate to auction the seized gold; and

(e) whether Government propose to issue import licence for import of gold to curb gold smuggling and bring down domestic price of gold?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Data on gold reserve of RBI and its value at the international rate